GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4337
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2005
LIST OF MINORITIES
Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has directed the Union Government that the notified list of minorities in the country be kept to a bare minimum and should ultimately be done away with;

(b) if so, details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to implement the directives?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT (SMT. SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. In the case of Bal Patil & Another Versus Union of India and Others relating to inclusion of `Jains` in the list of Minorities Communities notified by the Union Government, the Supreme Court of India inter-alia made the observation that the Commission instead of encouraging claims from different communities for being added to a list of notified minorities under the National Commission for Minorities Act 1992 should suggest ways and means to help create social conditions where the list of notified minorities is gradually reduced and done away altogether. The Ministry has taken note of the observation made by the Supreme Court.

(c) The Government is already implementing various Schemes for socio-economic development of backward sections of the minorities keeping that in view.